

Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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Of One Blood*

"God . . . hath made of one blood all nations of men . . . For we are his offspring." (ACTS 17:26a, 28b)

Fourscore and seven years ago one of our forefathers fell before an assassin's hand. A gaunt, homespun man he was, ridiculed by opponents as a rail splitter and backwoodsman. A common man he was, and we have done well to place his image on our most common coin. He is honored throughout the world today as probably the greatest American.

We honor Abraham Lincoln for his personal greatness, but we have left unfinished his work of emancipation. A revolution in race relations has been taking place in America in the last decade; old fetters are breaking and a new spirit of reconciliation is abroad in the land. But too often still the vague fact of color and the vaguer theories of race overshadow the deeper fact of brotherhood among all men. Emancipated, the Negro is not yet given equal freedom. Welcomed as cheap labor, newly arrived members of minority groups, including Jews, Orientals and Mexicans, are still treated cheaply in many ways. The American Indian, on a continent earlier his own, continues to suffer from exploitation and limited opportunity.

The whole world watches every denial of human brotherhood. The issue of race has become crucial in a time when men must learn to live as brothers if they are to live at all. In Asia and Africa non-white peoples are breaking old bonds of domination and are struggling toward equal status in the world. On occasion their aspirations are thwarted by newer and subtler forms of tyranny, but they will not be forever denied. The struggle for racial equality is a central aspect of the current conflict among the nations, and tyranny can hardly be defeated in one sphere unless it is rejected in every form, everywhere.

The findings of science and the ideals of democracy agree with the Christian faith in proclaiming the unity and the essential equality of all men. But Christian faith goes deeper and bases its teaching on foundations that can never be shaken. It affirms that men are not only equal under God, but also brothers: "For we are also his offspring." He hath made us all of one blood; we are all kinsmen in the only family that shall endure forever. We are required therefore not only to tolerate one another, and to deal justly the one with the other; more profoundly, we must actually love each other. Because God our Father loves us all, our love must be without sham. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

God Gives life to every man; for all men did Christ die and rise again. Under God every infraction of brotherhood will come to judgment; in Christ men are bound inseparably together.

The faith we profess condemns all racial division and directs our feet toward a new way. The Christian churches have succumbed largely to racial lines. Now we are moving toward unity in race relations and toward integration in a more blessed community. We must hasten: the times are urgent and our imperatives are clear.

Justification is coming for the faith of a tall man — a gaunt man so tall that his image will fall across centuries — a homespun man of the people who believed that the people under God, at last, would find the way to brotherhood.

A time of testing has come for that greater faith which the centuries have not obscured: the assurance that we live and move and have our own true being in God the Father, whose offspring we are and whose redemptive love enables us to treasure all men as brothers.

*Message of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., for the 30th Annual Observance of Race Relations Sunday, February 10, 1952, marking Brotherhood Month. For the drafting of this Message the National Council of Churches is indebted to Dr. Liston Pope, Dean, The Divinity School, Yale University.

THE WAY OF VIOLENCE

The dastardly killing on Christmas Eve of a man and the subsequent death of his wife, because of his concern over civil rights, registered the spotlight of national attention and hope in the law enforcement agencies in the State of Florida. But not for long —. A news report of January 9, in the *New York Post*, indicates that:

"FBI agents in Florida . . . (were) under direct orders to find the killers and bombers in the reign of terror there — and let federal and state officials determine the question of jurisdiction later.

"The order, 'a complete departure from usual FBI practices,' was revealed . . . by Attorney General McGrath in a conference . . . with leaders of labor, religious and civil liberties groups in the recent Florida outrages." . . .

The Christmas Eve murder which precipitated such unprecedented Federal action was one of a series of instances of violence taking a toll of human life as well as of property.

. . . A man named Harry T. Moore was killed by a bomb in his home on Christmas night. Mr. Moore was a Negro, a leader in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and had aggressively spread the doctrine of equal citizenship for Negroes. For that he was killed. The cowardly slayer left no explanations, but the reason is only too plain. Mr. Moore represented an idea of human progress, advocated it openly and persistently, and as a result was murdered by a terroristic force of evil. (*New York Herald Tribune*, December 28).

The *New York Times*, of December 27, editorialized: "Race Relations seems to be improving, but not without some horrifying setbacks. One of these happened last July in Cicero, near Chicago, when a mob wrecked a Negro's apartment in a district previously restricted to Caucasians.* Now, in this Christmas week, news comes of the brutal murder at Mims, Fla., of Harry T. Moors, state coordinator of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Moore's crime was an effort to clear up a rape case and to investigate a Sheriff's shooting of two handcuffed Negro prisoners (Lake County, Fla.) in that case. . . .

*The federal grand jury investigating the July 11-12 anti-Negro riots in Cicero, Ill., indicted the mayor, three officials and three policemen of the all-white suburb of Chicago.

The accused men are charged on two counts — the violation of the civil rights of the Harvey E. Clarks, a Negro family that attempted to move into an apartment in Cicero, and conspiracy in connection with the actual rioting. . . . (*The Call*, December 21).

"Florida has been suffering from a wave of crimes arising from religious as well as racial bias. A series of bombings of Catholic churches and of synagogues is part of the story. State and federal investigations are already in process. The matter is not one for Florida alone, for when any citizen, for any reason, in any community, is denied the basic liberties and protections we are all threatened. Neither in Illinois nor in Florida can rule of terror be tolerated." (*New York Times*, December 27).

There have been eleven bombings or attempted bombings in the Miami area since last June. Most of them have been aimed at Jewish synagogues, at the Negro settlement in Carver Village near by and at two Catholic churches. . . . (*New York Times*, December 27).

Two Tallahassee policemen were suspended last night pending outcome of a Federal civil rights investigation into charges that the officers had beaten a 61-year-old Negro . . .

Tallahassee officers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said they had completed a preliminary investigation and their report had gone to Washington for submission to the Attorney General, who would decide whether Federal charges would be filed.

The Chief said he knew of no provocation for any mistreatment of the Negro. (*The New York Times*, November 26).

Here

The police officers (in Miami, Fla.) said they believed they had foiled another attempt to dynamite a Jewish center, and Glenn C. Mincer, State Attorney, warned that any terrorists caught face the death penalty. . . . (*New York Times*, December 26).

And There

Anti-Semitism is on the increase and Jewish cultural, religious and communal life is being exterminated systematically in the Communistic satellite countries, according to the fifty-third annual American Jewish Year Book, published jointly by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society. . . . (*New York Times*, December 26).

The worth of the individual and his inalienable right to basic civil and political liberty are comparatively new ideas in the world's history. America was founded

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.

upon these principles; thousands have died for them, but millions over great areas of the earth are still struggling for human dignity and fundamental freedoms.

The United Nations has drawn up a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This Declaration is part of the United Nations program to achieve the protection of the fundamental freedoms of individuals, regardless of nationality, race, sex or creed.

The United Nations is now working on the Covenant on Human Rights, which will prohibit the nations that ratify it from depriving their own citizens of fundamental human rights. Savage and brutal treatment of a nation's citizens will be no longer a domestic question, but an international responsibility. . . . (*Department of State Publication*, August 1951).

And Protests

Due in a great measure to the heavy weight of protests in the Cicero, Illinois instance of violence, a more equitable indictment has been rendered by a Federal Grand Jury. The present wave of violence in the State of Florida is being met by citizen and organizational protests throughout the nation.

. . . Members of a delegation who expressed the concern (in conference with Attorney General McGrath) of their organizations in the outrages included Dr. J. Oscar Lee of the National Council of Churches, Patrick Murphy Malin of the American Civil Liberties Union, Edward D. Davis, of the Florida State NAACP Conference and Dr. Dorothy B. Ferebee of the National Council of Negro Women . . . and Walter White, NAACP Executive Secretary and spokesman for the more than a dozen national religious and labor groups.

Also the Rev. George G. Higgins of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, The Rev. Thomas S. Harten of the National Baptist Convention, David Brody of the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, Reginald Zalles of Americans for Democratic Action, John O'Connor of the Catholic Interracial Council, Marcus Cohen of the American Jewish Committee and William Laville of the CIP. (*New York Post*, January 9).

On December 3, 1951, in a letter Governor Fuller Warren, of Florida, Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, President of the National Council of Churches, expressed . . . "deep concern over the shooting in a lonely section of Lake County, Florida, of two Negroes . . ."

He further stated that: "Justice for all men before the law is a foundation stone of our democracy. Christians and as Americans we urge you to press for the truth in this case."

On December 27, 1951, Dr. Samuel Crea Cavert in a letter to Mr. J. Ward McGrath declared that "Only vigorous action without delay can correct this situation, which is not only morally sickening but damaging to the international reputation of the Nation. . . . Equal rights before the law which entitle every person to equal protection of the law without discrimination is not only the foundation of our democracy but is demanded by the Christian concept of justice."

* * *

ONE SOLUTION

Migration is one of the important factors helping to reduce racial prejudice and friction in the South. Those who deal with racial relations point out that it is almost axiomatic that the problems of racial minorities decrease as the minorities' numerical strength decreases. Some few think that in the long range this may be the solution to the South's racial problem.

Preliminary census (1950) figures show that the Negro population of the United States is being gradually spread throughout the country. The South is losing Negro population while the other parts of the country are gaining. In no Southern State now except Mississippi does the Negro population come close to equaling the white. . . .

The census reports leave no doubt as to where the Negroes are migrating. In the last decade in the big industrial states of California, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania — the white population increased only 14 per cent, from 55,483,948 to 63,371,000. But the non-white population increased a spectacular 55 per cent, from 2,808,549 to 4,364,000. . . . (*New York Herald-Tribune*, December 16).

* * *

A MORE REPRESENTATIVE LEADERSHIP

With the growth of the Negro ballot in the South, Negro office-seeking has shown a moderate but steady increase in the past few years. During 1951 some thirty Negroes have sought public office in their communities. Leading the Southern states far in this respect is North Carolina, where fifteen Negro candidates offered for city councils. They participated in primaries or final elections in Burlington, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, Gastonia, Greensboro, Madison, Monroe, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Southern Pines and Winston-Salem.

Although only five Negroes in the region were successful in their bids for office, others failed by narrow margins. In Jacksonville, Florida, for example, one of two Negro candidates for city council placed second in a field of four.

The successful candidates — in each case for city council or board of aldermen

— were: Dr. W. P. Devane, physician, Fayetteville, N. C.; Dr. William M. Hampton, physician, Greensboro, N. C.; Rev. William R. Crawford, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Robert E. Lillard, attorney, Nashville, Tenn.; Z. A. Looby, attorney, Nashville, Tenn. (*New South*, Aug.-Sept.).

* * *

COMMITTEE ON FEP

President Truman's creation of the Committee on Government Contract Compliance won praise as a "step in the right direction" . . . from the backers of legislation to enforce fair employment practices. . . .

Senator J. William Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, told reporters he did not think it was "a proper practice" for the Executive Branch to attempt to put into effect, through contracts, measures, that Congress had refused to approve. (*New York Times*, December 4).

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The President in a special statement said the primary purpose of the order was "to secure better compliance by contractors and subcontractors" with provisions in Federal contracts specifically forbidding discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin. . . . (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, December 4).

* * *

CONFERENCE

Christian Action will hold its first conference on Civil Liberties in the New York area on February 16. There will be three sessions during the day. Mr. Patrick Malin will lead the group at the morning session in an analysis of civil rights issues. The afternoon session will be devoted to an analysis of the strength and resources of the Protestant churches in dealing with civil liberties issues.

At the evening session Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr will discuss the theological undergirding of the churches' stand on civil liberties and social action. The Rev. Harold C. Letts, Secretary, Social Action, Board of Social Missions, United Lutheran Church in America, will serve as chairman for the conference.

All sessions will be convened at the Ascension Presbyterian Church, 106th Street near First Avenue, East Harlem, New York City.

* * *

FEP IN NEW YORK

A total of 181 complaints charging job discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin were received in the first nine months of 1951, it was announced . . . by Edward W. Edwards, chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination.

Edwards disclosed that 67% of the protests alleged bias because of color, 21% because of creed and 7% because of national origin. The other 5% charged unlawful preemployment inquiries, Edwards said.

Most of the color complaints were filed by Negroes, Edwards revealed, but two persons claimed that they were victimized because they were white. The majority of creed protests were made by Jews, Edwards said. (*New York Daily News*, October 26).

* * *

FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

— "dog food"

The Labor Department today revoked the contract of a Texas county judge to feed Mexican farm workers on the ground that he used canned meat which was imported as dog food.

Michael J. Gavlin, Under-Secretary of Labor, said the contract of Judge R. E. Bibb to provide for the laborers at the Eagle Pass, Texas, migratory workers' center was being terminated effective November 1. The notice is required in case of such a cancellation.

The duty on such a product would be considerably less than the tax on meat for human consumption, the department explained. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, October 8). (Emphasis added).

* * *

EDUCATION

. . . And Citizenship

. . . Negroes are voting now in increasing numbers in the South, since the Democratic primaries have been opened to them by court orders in recent years, and some political thinkers are . . . asking if a two-party system comes to the South, could not the minority race conceivably hold a balance of power in Southern elections?

Other than the 1952 Presidential year the principal thing that will concern the Southern governors when they gather in Hot Springs will be the attempt of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to have the courts end segregation in the public schools. Here again South Carolina will be in the leading role, for in a case brought in South Carolina the Federal District Court has upheld the principle of segregation but ordered a school district — and by inference the whole state — to lose no time in providing equal physical school facilities for the races. The suit is being appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

In an effort to equalize facilities, South Carolina is launching a \$75,000,000 school-building program through a state bond issue, and is generally overhauling its educational system. Some other

Southern states have made less spectacular moves in the same direction, but that some of the Southern states will have to do as much or more than South Carolina is trying to do — and do it hurriedly — seems inevitable, if the South can have the slightest hope of maintaining segregation in its grade schools. . . . (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*, September 15).

* * *

A Growing List

The long series of Federal court decisions opening Southern state universities to Negroes has attracted national attention. Not so widely noticed is the fact that a growing number of private colleges in the South — most of them church-related — have quietly begun admitting Negro students.

A survey by the *Journal and Sentinel* shows that twenty private schools in most of the Southern states have admitted Negro students to their classes. Many of the colleges, however, restrict Negroes to study on the graduate level. Others admit them freely to all departments.

Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, and non-denominational institutions are among those which admit Negroes. The complete list of institutions which formerly accepted only white students and now admit Negroes is as follows:

Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia
Berea College, Berea, Kentucky
Nazareth College, Louisville, Kentucky
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Wayland College, Plainview, Texas
Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
Austin Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas
Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland
The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.
Dunbarton College of Holy Cross, Washington, D. C.
American University, Washington, D. C.
St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri
Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana
Ursuline College, Louisville, Kentucky
Louisville Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

(*NewSouth*, August-Sept.)

The Virginia Episcopal Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia, and Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn., were not included in the above list but are properly classified with these institutions.

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Louisiana State University was ordered to admit Negro students to its school of nursing by Federal Judge Herbert Christenberry recently. (*World-Telegram*, October 17).

* * *

In Puerto Rico

Specially trained teams of educators from the United States are being sent to Puerto Rico to overcome the language obstacles of Spanish-speaking persons coming to the mainland, it was reported recently.

The program, which produces results in a matter of weeks, was devised largely by Prof. I. A. Richardson of Harvard.

* * *

SOUTH AFRICA

A major concern of the United Nations meeting in Paris has been the status of South West Africa.

"... The problem of satisfying native African aspirations for independence, self-rule and political equality is one of the most difficult of its kind facing our convulsive and nationalistic age. With varying degrees of intensity the issue is shaking the foundations of every colony, territory and dominion from the Sahara Desert to the Cape of Good Hope and from Dakar in French West Africa to Mombasa in Kenya.

"The right of the natives to an ever-greater share in their own Government is morally obvious. The continent was theirs until recently, and they outnumber the Europeans many times over. At the same time the Europeans have their legally

acquired rights, and they do, on the whole, try to play an honest and civilizing role in leading the various territories and people from tribal savagery to responsible self-government. In this respect, however, South Africa is back in the Dark Ages. The Malan Government practices a basic philosophy of permanent white superiority and the segregation of the non-white races. . . . (*New York Times*, December 4).

* * *

A REVIEW

Using the device of photographs, LOOK Magazine presents a thought-provoking article by Mr. Carl T. Rowan entitled "How Far From Slavery?"*

While acknowledging the over-all pattern of progress toward the realization of civil rights in the South, the article points up very vividly in words and pictures the appalling inequalities of life between the two races.

A gleam of hope is indicated by a photograph of a Negro student seated with his white classmates at the University of Kentucky. Other rays of hope grow out of the gloom; Mr. Rowan discovers these promising signs among youth on the college and university campuses: "The 100 or more Negroes now at the University of Arkansas; the way races study in harmony at the University of Oklahoma, where white students tore down \$5,000 worth of Jim-Crow signs because 'we just didn't like the distinction.'"

For the author America is one, regardless of color: "We have a common destiny. That to me is the great hope — both for the Negro and for democracy."

* This article appeared in the January 1 issue of LOOK Magazine.

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